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**From:** Frey, Christopher [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B977974633144C458C3D2A3F4F62BF0B-FREY, H]  
**Sent:** 3/25/2021 5:01:06 PM  
**To:** Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: HSST IRIS questions

Radha:

Thanks for sharing this. As a clarification: Is this for my awareness, or are you looking to me to line up answers to the questions below?

In general, we (myself, Jennifer, and looping in staff as appropriate) would be happy to meet with HSST staff to brief/discuss IRIS.

Chris

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**From:** Adhar, Radha <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 4:07 PM  
**To:** Frey, Christopher <Frey.Christopher@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: HSST IRIS questions

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**From:** Hooghan, Priyanka <Priyanka.Hooghan@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Adhar, Radha <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>; Moody, Christina <Moody.Christina@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Schneider, Josh <Josh.Schneider@mail.house.gov>; Thompson, Janie <Janie.Thompson@mail.house.gov>; Palasits, Sara <Sara.Palasits@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: HSST IRIS questions

Adding Christina Moody.

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**From:** Palasits, Sara <Sara.Palasits@mail.house.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 10:48 AM  
**To:** Adhar, Radha <Adhar.Radha@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Hooghan, Priyanka <Priyanka.Hooghan@mail.house.gov>; Schneider, Josh <Josh.Schneider@mail.house.gov>; Thompson, Janie <Janie.Thompson@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** HSST IRIS questions

Hi Radha,

Happy Friday! We were happy to see the Politico report below regarding the IRIS formaldehyde assessment and a revamped system of prioritizing assessment requests from program and regional offices. We have a few questions –

- Can we please have a copy of the memo quoted by Politico?
- Will the memo be published on EPA's website? If so, when?
- When will a new program outlook be issued to reflect the changes that have been made since the February update?
- What can you share about how the prioritization process will work in the coming year?

We're interested in a briefing with Kris Thayer to hear about these updates, as well. Please let us know when that would be possible.

Thanks,  
Sara

Sara Palasits  
Professional Staff, Investigations and Oversight  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
[Sara.Palasits@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sara.Palasits@mail.house.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **POLITICO Pro Energy** <[alert@email.politicopro.com](mailto:alert@email.politicopro.com)>

Date: Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 4:53 PM

Subject: Biden EPA revives formaldehyde assessment frozen under Trump

## **Biden EPA revives formaldehyde assessment frozen under Trump**

By Annie Snider

03/11/2021 04:53 PM EST

The Biden EPA is reviving a health assessment for formaldehyde that, before being squashed by the Trump administration, had been poised to find that most Americans inhale enough of the gas on a daily basis to face an increased risk of developing leukemia and other ailments.

The restart of the formaldehyde assessment is part of a revamp of the process for identifying chemicals that get EPA's gold-standard safety review announced by EPA's acting research chief in a Thursday memo reviewed by POLITICO.

**The backstory:** Industry has for years fought the conclusion that formaldehyde is linked with leukemia. The Trump EPA initially stalled the report from EPA's Integrated Risk Information System, and later killed it through a new prioritization process launched by then-research chief David Dunlap that required program and regional offices' requests for safety review to be approved by political officials.

Dunlap — whose former employer, Koch Industries, is a major emitter of formaldehyde — had told ethics officials he would recuse himself from the contentious assessment. But records obtained by POLITICO under public records law in 2019 showed he nonetheless participated in conversations relating to it.

The Trump administration later named formaldehyde as one of the next chemicals it will review under the Toxic Substances Control Act, a process that could lead to new restrictions.

**The details:** The new EPA memo reviewed by POLITICO announces that the research office "will unsuspend the IRIS assessment of formaldehyde and will add formaldehyde to the current IRIS agenda." Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Research and Development Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta said staff will add additional research to the assessment that has been published since the Trump administration suspended the work in 2018, and then the next step will be for the document to go through agency review.

"The IRIS formaldehyde assessment will then be a resource for our colleagues in [the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention], as well as other program offices, for use under their own statutory requirements," Orme-Zavaleta wrote.

More broadly, Orme-Zavaleta said the office is reopening the process for program and regional offices to request risk assessments from the IRIS program for specific chemicals this year "with the intent to focus on

science-based decisions and increase transparency" she wrote. The office will be "revamping" the process for next year.

**Why it matters:** The IRIS program's safety assessments are used not just by EPA, but also by state regulators and international agencies to understand the dangers posed by chemicals. But industry has long seen the program as flawed and has worked with Republican allies on Capitol Hill and in the White House to try to kill or hobble it.

*To view online:*

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2021/03/biden-epa-revives-formaldehyde-assessment-frozen-under-trump-3987530>

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